

The Great War---1097th Day

Germans Slain by Own Gunners in Heat of Battle

Many Batteries Withdrawn in Confusion of Allied Onslaught—American Fliers Work in Fog During Early Hours of Attack

(By The Associated Press)
British front in France and Belgium, Aug. 1.—Generally speaking, the situation early to-day was unchanged along the British front. Several German counter attacks were repulsed in the course of the night and the heavy counter attack continued, but the movement of big guns has been rendered most difficult by the rain.
The German artillery to-day actively shelled the trenches which were wrested from the Germans yesterday in No Man's Land about the salient, and the British guns continued to pour a steady stream of shrapnel and high explosives into the positions to which the enemy had retired.
The fighting is still going on. To-day Haig's men pressed ahead on the Zillebeke-Zandvoorde road, southeastward from Ypres, and on the village of Zillebeke, the fighting for the village of Zillebeke is described as particularly fierce and the battle line now runs straight through the ruined houses.
The vigorous German attacks on the Aisne and Verdun fronts are apparently for the purpose of relieving the pressure in Flanders. The fact that the French do not fear the Crown Prince's continued offensive is indicated by their undertaking on the Belgian front, which the French public was wholly unprepared to see.
Paris is silent as to any major German operation on the Chemin des Dames and says that Pétain by a surprise counter thrusts made at the beginning of the day, but that the French were able to convey the impression that the Germans were but little successful northeast of Verdun, and affirms that the enemy was unable to renew his attacks in that quarter.

Flanders Battlefield Turned Into a Marsh

Thousands of Prisoners Taken

London, Aug. 1.—Wet weather, which has prevailed over Western Europe since Sunday, and which continues without intermission, prepared the British public for General Sir Douglas Haig's report to-day that the weather had hindered the British operations in Flanders.
The downpour of rain has been one of the most severe and most persistent experienced in recent summer, and the knowledge of the British public that the ground over which the fighting has been taking place has led commentators to warn their readers not to expect too much.
The achievements of the Anglo-French forces, however, are considered of good omen for the future, the Allies having proved that they are more than a match for the Germans against the British report to-day that the weather had hindered the British operations in Flanders.
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Germans Killed by Own Guns

Is Superior to Allies

Copenhagen, Aug. 1.—The German official preliminary report on the British offensive, printed to-day under the headline "Before Great Infantry Attack," states that the British offensive, which was launched on the night of July 31, was repulsed, and that the British were unable to achieve a greater result in the same way.
The defeat of the Germans also is expected to have a good influence on Russia, while the weather makes it impossible to continue it, will tend to outflank the Lille district from the north and threaten the enemy's line of communications between Germany and the Belgian coast.
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Flanders Battle Expected To Be Greatest of War

Paris, Aug. 1.—The indications are that the battle of Flanders will be the biggest struggle of the war.

The offensive of the French and British allies had been expected for some weeks, for although the French and British official communications speak of no inkling of it, the German reports showed clearly a large scale of operations was preparing.
The French public, however, did not know that French troops had been dispatched to share in the assault. Originally the front from the North Sea coast to Ypres had been held by the French in the Neusport region, then the Belgians as far as Elverdinghe, and then by the British. The British troops later relieved the French and part of the Belgians along the coast.
It is thoroughly recognized here that the operation is only the beginning of a battle that will last weeks, perhaps months, but it is also hoped and believed that its effects will be in proportion to the extraordinary scale and vast scope on which it is being prepared.
The great part of the programme has been carried out with complete success, and in a way which augurs well for its accomplishment as a whole. A glance at the map is sufficient to show the importance of the operations now under way. What has been effected fully justifies the German apprehensions and the French jubulations.
French military observers say it was much to be hoped that the German army soon be cleared out of French and Belgian Flanders if things continue to go as well as they did yesterday.

British Advance in Africa

Drive Germans from Positions on the Lugugru River

London, Aug. 1.—British troops have driven the Germans from their positions on the Lugugru River, in German East Africa, and are pushing forward in the Kilwa region, says an official statement issued to-day by the British War Office. The text reads: "After sharp fighting the enemy has been driven, with loss, from his positions on the Lugugru River and at Ntuliwa."
The principle fighting during the French advance occurred around Bixchoote and in two small villages further to the southeast, where the opposing infantrymen met hand to hand and struggled until all the Germans were killed or captured.
The situation was rendered still more difficult by the presence within the enemy's lines of a large number of waterways that must be crossed by means of bridges which might at any moment be destroyed by gunfire. This difficulty, however, was overcome by brilliant feats of the British engineers, who threw seventeen bridges across the waterways for the advancing troops in the face of terrific gunfire. Similar and equally remarkable work was done by the French, who were forced to bridge the Yser for their attack.
The Germans had little fear, apparently, that the battle would turn in the direction of their right wing. It was early in June that rumors of the impending attack began to find their way to German ears and were voiced by German officers and were found in Berlin. Gradually the rumors assumed certainty and the Germans began feverishly to strengthen their lines, pouring large numbers of fresh forces into Flanders and bringing up all available guns. The surrounding country

Russians Try An Offensive, But Are Reluctant

Regain Some Positions on Border, but Retreat on Dniester

London, Aug. 1.—The Russians have undertaken what Petrograd describes as a "partial offensive" against the Germans in the direction of Tarnopol, which lies southeast of Tarnopol, well within the Galician border. An initial success was won and a hostile position was stormed by the Slavic troops near Grymalof.
Evidently this is an effort to drive the German back from the River Zbrocz, which forms the frontier between Galicia and White Russia. The blow was aimed at the enemy's left flank in this region and is calculated to cut into his rear. As yet, however, the success is unimportant, as the Austro-Germans continued to force crossings of the Zbrocz yesterday on a still wider front.
The Russians protecting the stream north of the Dniester, in the region of Zalesky, gave battle stubbornly, but were driven back into Russia after suffering what Petrograd admits to be very heavy losses, especially among the officers.
The German forces attacked yesterday above the northern end of the line of retreat in the direction of Brody, according to Petrograd. At first they made progress, but the Russians rallied and drove them back to their original positions, and restored the old positions.
Everywhere else, from the Dniester to the Rumanian front in the Carpathians, the Russians are withdrawing, though not without a bitter struggle. The Russian forces are withdrawing, though not without a bitter struggle. The Russian forces are withdrawing, though not without a bitter struggle.

Rumanians Break Forty-Mile Front

Continue Advance in Carpathians; 98 Guns Captured

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American Fliers Work In Fog During Early Part Of Flanders Battle

Thousands of Prisoners Taken

With the French Armies in Flanders, July 31.—An infantry battle in misty Flanders followed on the most sustained and most intense bombardment yet delivered during the war, stretching from the coast of the North Sea to the Belgian border, and ending in a series of attacks on the British front, which were repulsed with heavy losses. The German forces attacked yesterday above the northern end of the line of retreat in the direction of Brody, according to Petrograd. At first they made progress, but the Russians rallied and drove them back to their original positions, and restored the old positions.
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Official Statements

West

London, Aug. 1 (DAY).—South of the Ypres-Comines Canal British minor operations during the night resulted in an improvement of our new line.
Hostile counter attacks yesterday afternoon and evening against our new positions at La Base Ville and immediately north of the Ypres-Comines Canal were successfully repulsed.
Further north, in the neighborhood of the Ypres-Roulers railway, another German counter attack was crushed during the night by our artillery.
The weather continues unfavorable for operations. Heavy rain has been falling since early yesterday morning.
A successful raid last night east of Bots Grenier.
(NIGHT).—Rain continued to fall throughout the night, but our front line was advanced slightly in the neighborhood of the Zillebeke-Zandvoorde road. On the left bank of the Zillebeke, the British gained ground and our attack on the German positions was successful.
During the night our new positions east of the Ypres-Comines Canal were strengthened and the British forces were repositioned.
The fighting was particularly fierce for possession of the village of West, where our troops continued to deliver a strong force of the enemy. Our troops successfully repulsed the enemy's repeated attempts to drive us back from the important position of West, and captured the village of West. The British forces were repositioned.
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Whole German Battalions Wiped Out by Raking Fire of Allied Guns

Paris, Aug. 1.—In Belgium, our troops, under the command of General Foch, have wiped out several German battalions, and are pushing forward in the Kilwa region, says an official statement issued to-day by the British War Office.

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Ribot Charges Michaelis Lied In Peace Speech

Asserts Franco-Russian Letters Were Falsified by the Chancellor

Paris, Aug. 1.—Premier Ribot replied in the Chamber yesterday to the declaration made Saturday by Dr. Michaelis, the German Chancellor, that there was a secret treaty between France and Russia having in view plans of conquest. Premier Ribot said: "The German Chancellor publicly commanded the French government to declare whether in a secret sitting June 1 the French government had not made known to the Chamber of Deputies the terms of a secret treaty made before the Russian revolution whereby the Emperor bound himself to support French pretensions to German territory on the left bank of the Rhine."
The Chancellor's version contains gross inaccuracies and absolute lies, notably regarding the role he attributes to the President of the republic in giving an order to sign a treaty unknown to Premier Ribot.
The Chambers know how things passed. M. Doumergue (ex-President and Foreign Minister) after a conversation with the Emperor, demanded and obtained M. Briand's authorization to take note of the Emperor's promise to support our claim to Alsace-Lorraine and to leave us free to seek guarantees against fresh aggression, not by annexing territories on the left bank of the Rhine, but making an autonomous state of these territories which would protect us and also Belgium against invasion.
"We have never thought to do what Bismarck did in 1871. We are therefore entitled to deny the allegation of the Chancellor, who evidently knows of the letters exchanged in February, 1917, at Petrograd and falsified since, as his most illustrious predecessor, falsified the Ems dispatch. Whenever the Russian government is willing to discuss these letters we have no objection."

Michaelis's Statements

Premier Repeats Denial That France Is in War for Conquest

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Points Out Hardships Of Alsace-Lorraine

Amsterdam, Aug. 1.—The "General" of Essen, publishes a long interview on the question of Alsace-Lorraine with Bernard Boettgen, Social member of the Reichstag for Strasbourg, in which he recounts the various grievances and the unnecessary hardships imposed upon them by the declaration of a state of siege. He points, for instance, to the ban upon the speaking of French, although many of the people still do not speak German.

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Deschanel Lauds Work of French War Parliament
People as Deeply in Accord as Three Years Ago, He Says

Paris, Aug. 1.—Paul Deschanel, President of the Chamber of Deputies, to-day answered the request of The Associated Press for a declaration on the end of the third year of the war by an eloquent defence of the institution over which he presides so ably.
"Since the outbreak of the war," he said, "Parliament has filled with honor the heavy task which events have laid upon it. Its continual anxiety has been to aid those who are fighting. A number of military laws have assured to the country effective and material which were indispensable for the general security; others concerning agriculture, industries, transport, hygiene, the civil status of families, finance and procedure have placed legislation in harmony with events."
"The Parliamentary committees are still studying many bills, which when voted will constitute new and decisive justifications of its right of control, which is one of Parliament's essential prerogatives, and in time of war, above all, should be imperatively exercised."

Vigilant Control Exerted
"Without exceeding its attributes, without interfering with the direction of military operations or the conduct of diplomatic negotiations, the French Parliament has constantly striven by exercising vigilant control to diminish all delays and assure to the armies that which the armistice demand, often with impatience."
"The work of the committees will only be fully known later, but every citizen can be assured that Parliament's action has been dominated by love of public welfare. That has not prevented, and must not prevent, the most direct and most effective action of the French Republic. Some have been without foundation, some have been inspired by zeal for the general good."

40,000 Greeks Starved By Bulgars, Is Report
Havas Dispatch Says Effort Has Been Made to Kill All Hellenes in Macedonia

Paris, Aug. 1.—Forty thousand Greeks have been starved to death in Eastern Macedonia since the Bulgarian occupation began, according to authentic reports received by the Greek government, says a Havas dispatch from Athens.
"The Bulgarians," adds the correspondent, "have carried out a systematic persecution of the Greek element in the population looking to its extermination. They have inflicted all sorts of privations upon the Greeks, burdening them with military work and deporting them to Bulgarian localities."

Germans Hold Back Gold
"Don't Realize Seriousness of Hour," Says "Gazette"

Amsterdam, Aug. 1.—Only 800,000 marks worth of gold ornaments have been contributed to the German Red Cross in response to its appeal, according to the "Cologne Gazette," whereas it had been calculated the amount should be 2,000,000 marks.
This shows, says the newspaper, that the German people are not yet fully realized by the people, and it exhorts them to remember their duty to the hard-pressed Fatherland.

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